

U.S. ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

POLLUTION REPORT

I. HEADING

DATE: October 3, 1997

SUBJECT: Central Steel and Drum, Newark, Essex County,
New Jersey

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Response and Prevention Branch

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START

POLREP No: One (1)

II. BACKGROUND

Site No.:	JR
Delivery Order No.:	2001-02-130
Response Authority:	CERCLA
ERNS No.:	N/A
CERCLIS No.:	NJD011482577
NPL Status:	Non-NPL
State Notification:	NJDEP notified
Action Memorandum Status:	Approved July 3, 1997
Start Date:	September 29, 1997
Demobilization Date:	N/A
Completion Date:	N/A

III. SITE INFORMATION

A. Incident Category

CERCLA Incident category: Other

Abandoned Drum Reconditioning/Recycling Facility

B. Site Description

1. Site Location

The Site is located at 704-738 Doremus Avenue, Newark, New Jersey, 07105. The Site is situated in an industrial area in the Iron Bound section of Newark and consists of a large manufacturing building located on 8.5 acres. Before 1952, an ink manufacturer occupied this Site (International Printing Ink, Division of Interchemical Corporation, now part of Inmont Corp.). From 1952 to approximately 1991, Central Steel and Drum operated a drum reconditioning business. After vacating the property, a container shipping operation leased the property. According to NJDEP, the property has been abandoned since 1994.

The Site is situated on filled wetland. On the south end of the property, bordering one side of the property, is an existing wetland where drums have been observed. To the west, along Doremus Avenue, are railroad tracks. The Site, other than the main building, is gravel/weed covered filled vacant land.

2. Description of Threat

Hazardous substances, pollutants or contaminants presently stored at the Site present a threat to the public health and welfare as defined by Section 300.415 (b) (2) of the National Contingency Plan (NCP), in that there is a high potential for releases to occur. An estimated 50,000 gallons of hazardous wastes are abandoned throughout the Site. Some of these drums are leaking, while most are currently in marginal to fair condition and they will continue to deteriorate. Due to the presence of flammable liquids and waste corrosives, the threat of fire at the facility does exist. The toxic fumes created by the uncontrolled combustion of these materials could impact the surrounding population, possibly necessitating the evacuation of the surrounding population and the closure of city roads, and rail lines. Additionally, these containers are being stored without regard to compatibility, which will only heighten the chance of accidental release.

C. Preliminary Assessment Results

An Expedited Removal Assessment (ERA) performed by EPA on March 14-15, 1997, determined that approximately 500 drums of flammable, corrosive, possible water reactive, incinerator ash and sand blasting materials are abandoned on the Site. In total, approximately 50,000 gallons of hazardous wastes are estimated to be abandoned throughout the building/site (approximately 35% are solid wastes). Information regarding hazardous wastes at the Site are based upon container labels, hazcatting and historical documents identified during the ERA.

IV. RESPONSE INFORMATION

A. Situation

1. Current Situation

EPA, START and ERCS have mobilized to the Site and Removal activities have been initiated. Debris has been cleared as necessary and staging areas set up. Ash stockpiling operations and the staging of drums containing product have begun and the two underground storage tanks have been sampled.

2. Removal Action to Date

On September 29, 1997, the OSC, START and ERCS mobilized to the Site. Clearing of debris and the staging of drums containing product began.

On September 30, 1997, clearing of debris and the staging of product drums continued. The command post trailer was set up.

On October 1, 1997, equipment and supplies necessary for operations were mobilized. Two truckloads of gravel were delivered and applied to the lot area to assist with site drainage. The mobile laboratory was delivered. Consolidation of the ash was initiated.

On October 2, 1997, ash stockpiling and product drum staging operations continued.

On October 3, 1997, ash stockpiling and product drum staging operations continued. Clearing of debris to gain access to the drums continued. The two USTs were sampled and the material sent for analysis.

3. Enforcement

The On-Scene Coordinator is currently working with the Program Support Branch, the office of Regional Counsel and the NJDEP to locate viable hPRPs to recover clean-up costs.

B. Planned Removal Actions

The objective of this removal action is to eliminate the threat to public health and welfare and the environment caused by the materials abandoned at the Site. The removal action will include:

- 1.) Securing the Site.
- 2.) Inventory of materials located at the Site.
- 3.) Sampling and analysis of materials located on-site.
- 4.) Waste categorization.
- 5.) Transportation and disposal of all hazardous wastes in accordance with EPA's CERCLA Off-Site Disposal Policy.

The selected mode of transportation and method of disposal will be based on the analytical data.

C. Next Steps

Stockpiling of the ash will continue.

Staging of the product drums will be completed. Drum sampling operations will begin on the product drums.

Additional samples of the ash piles will be taken.

Debris will continue to be cleared to gain access to random drums and ash piles.

Hazcatting operations will begin on the product drums.

D. Key Issues

None

V. Cost Information

The following information is estimated cost for the removal action as of October 3, 1997.

	Cost to Date
ERCS	\$ 28,300.00
START	\$ 3,000.00
EPA	\$ 2,000.00
Total	\$ 33,300.00

The above accounting of expenditures is an estimate based on figures known to the OSC at the time this report was written. The cost accounting provided in this report does not necessarily represent an exact monetary figure which the government may include in any claim for cost recovery.